

CELEBRATE CCC
ANNIVERSARY AT
WILDLIFE REFUGE

U. S. Biological Survey
Congratulates Boys
on "Good Job."

CCC boys, developing the Upper Souris Migratory Waterfowl Refuge in Benson and Ward Counties of North Dakota, are making an invaluable contribution to the national wildlife restoration program, says Dr. Irm M. Gabrielson, Chief of the U. S. Biological Survey. His congratulations to the camp personnel came on the fifth anniversary of the CCC.

The Upper Souris Camps are joining other camps throughout the nation this week (March 31 to April 5) in celebrating the anniversary and invites the public to attend an "open house" celebration on (insert date) to see the progress being made at this North Dakota wildlife refuge. Here the CCC boys, under the direction of the Biological Survey, are working to improve the refuge, as they are in 31 other camps on refuges over the United States. They are making the refuges easier to administer and more attractive to wildlife.

"CCC boys," says Dr. Gabrielson, "are familiar figures in many localities. The public is becoming acquainted with them and their work and can see the beneficial effect that camp training has in preparing boys for good citizenship. It learns about their contribution to the wildlife program."

The Upper Souris Refuge, in northwestern North Dakota, is a long narrow area extending southeast from the Canadian border along the Souris River, which meanders down out of Saskatchewan, Canada. One of the great hereditary duck breeding areas of the northwest, this area is rapidly making a comeback.

A high water reservoir, held by a 27-foot dam, impounds 122,000 acre feet of water. Two CCC camps, BR-1 and BR-5, have been engaged in development work on the refuge since May 24, 1935.

The Upper Souris Refuge was established as a Federally protected breeding ground for waterfowl by an Executive Order of President Roosevelt on August 27, 1935. It contains 30,734 acres and extends for more than 35 miles along the Souris River.

Canvasback, mallard, redhead and pintail ducks are among the ducks that now nest on the refuge in large numbers. Large flocks of waterfowl and other migratory birds, including Canada geese, swans and white pelicans also visit this sanctuary during their migrations.

Dikes and dams built with the aid of CCC labor now prevent serious floods from ravaging the valley in the vicinity of the refuge. Stream control also has improved sanitary conditions for towns along the river by providing stable water levels. In addition, recreational facilities for swimming, fishing, canoeing and picnicking have been developed on this sanctuary where they will not disturb the waterfowl and other wildlife, yet afford pleasure to the residents of the community.

A total of 1,814 acres of land has been cleared by the CCC boys for lake and pond sites, 29.4 miles of truck trails built and another 20 miles are under construction. These trails along with 10 miles of telephone line facilitate administration of the refuge.

The CCC boys have rased many undesirable structures, built bridges, barns, storage houses, garages and a lookout tower on the refuge. To protect wildlife more than 130 miles of fence and signs and markers on 118 miles of boundary have been erected. Two hundred wildlife shelters also dot the refuge.

Much also has been done to improve cover and feed conditions for wildlife. The CCC boys have planted a nursery and have collected more than 32 tons of flower, tree and shrub seed. A total of 802 acres have been planted to food and cover for waterfowl. Many trees and shrubs also have been transplanted in more suitable areas.

Stable water levels are important on a refuge, as they are conducive to good growth of waterfowl food plants. The CCC boys built rock and concrete spillways and laid pipe and ~~tide~~ tile lines to insure stable water levels. They also have engaged in a general cleanup of the refuge property and assisted in rodent control.

The camps at Upper Souris also report that 12 of their boys obtained employment during the last half of 1937 as a result of the technical training they received. It is very probable that more boys, who did not report back after leaving camp, received jobs as a result of this training.

"All of the work completed so far," says Dr. Gabrielsen, "helps make the waterfowl and other wildlife at Upper Souris feel at home. This great duck incubator will serve as a lasting tribute to the CCC. Five years ago when our wildlife resources, especially waterfowl, were in serious danger the Biological Survey had a restoration program. It lacked means and the man-power to carry out the program. Then emergency funds for buying refuges became available and about the same time CCC camps afforded labor for developing these sanctuaries. The result has been an increasingly improved system of wildlife refuges and an impetus to the wildlife restoration which was only dreamed of five years ago."